

The Times Dispatch

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SATURDAY, JULY 26, 1913.

It does seem to us that the Administrative Board, which costs the city \$25,000 a year, might arrange for summer concerts for ten weeks without getting into a muddle. To handle this matter of giving the people of Richmond some good, light music for summer recreation would seem to be exactly the kind of work for which the Administrative Board was created. It seems that this board has handled the matter in such a way as to get poor music, order the annulling of its own contract, offend most of the musicians, and receive many complaints from citizens. Now it is backtracking to make a new deal. Cander compels the admission that this music muddle is one of the most pointless and pitiable muddles we have recently seen muddled.

We do not suppose the board members are expert musicians. Perhaps they do not know very much about the blowing of horns. Yet we think five deaf men could fix up some sort of a scheme to get results in a concert way. We suppose there is some kind of small politics in this, as in other things. Outsiders might think that Richmond could get a little harmony in the harmony art without pulling any wires save those that tighten the drum. This is too fond a hope. Our music has to be provided by the political composers. We may not get any classical tunes, but we get some more classical politics. Without any harsh feelings, innuendo, or high-brow criticism, we ask the poor old public: Isn't it funny nothing, not even some pitiful little tunes for fun, can get done in Richmond without some sort of trouble?

We don't know what politics is behind it, nor do we care. It may be the labor vote, or the City Hall vote, or the cruelty to animals vote, or just the plain old selfish desire to hold onto a job that shifts the band and the bandmasters and the uniforms and the tunes on the political checker-board. We don't care. Richmond does not care. Some tuppenny politician may get something somewhere. Yet we would like to hear some real, live music, delivered to us in efficient manner.

Seriously, folks, doesn't it strike you as ridiculous, doesn't it grate on your home-town pride, doesn't it make you wonder where your taxes come back to you, when you have grown men who last year wrote pretentious platforms and babbled to citizens' meetings cannot get together and give you a little decent music without throwing a fit?

SWIMMING HOLES, AGAIN.

Does our worthy correspondent "X" really think we are so senseless and decrepit that we have forgotten where "Cherry" was located and have confused that swimming hole with the delightfully shaded waters around Belle Isle?

Heaven forbid! He should as soon forget our birthplace and tell the ignorant that we came from Vermont. Forget "Cherry" and "Little Hell" and "Tiger" and the rest? Not as long as there is life! Why, a trip to "Cherry" was the event of the week. First of all, the parental consent had to be had—unless, indeed, we were willing to chance at supper time an explanation as to why our hair was wet. Then 5 cents had to be forthcoming, for that cheerful Charon who rowed the boys from under the Free Bridge to "Cherry" was inexorable in his demands. Last of all, one had to make up a genial party, because there was little fun at "Cherry" unless one had friends there to witness one's feats of daring.

And did we ever cross the river on the rocks above the old pumping station at Hollywood? We should think we did, and our hair rises to think how hot it was, how smooth the rocks, how uncertain our foothold, was there ever a Richmond boy twenty or thirty years ago who did not make that trip, boast of it to his wide-eyed friends and then explain to his questioning mother that he had spent the day at "Young's Pond" or "Shields's Grove" or some other Sunday school resort?

Our correspondent is right. We old boys did not have to call on a Council for playgrounds or for swimming holes. We made them ourselves. But that was in the good old days when Buffalo Bill would pitch his tents just back of Richmond College—when we played football around Lee Monument and thought the Soldiers' Home far in the country. Times have changed, brother, and we have changed with them. The boys of today cannot know the joys that were ours!

OF CRAPE MYRTLE AND OTHERS.

Pause, Mr. Busy Man, one of these hot July mornings and glance into one of Richmond's old gardens to see the crape myrtle in bloom. The first flowers are fading, but fresh buds are swelling, soon to brighten the landscape with pink.

Most of our gardens have been squished by pick and shovel, and have given place to brick fronts and alleys, but those that remain are a delightful heritage. They keep alive old memories, they kindle new hopes, and with their varied flower beds they are one of Richmond's best assets.

In fact, though few people think of it, visitors to the city are struck with the quaint old flowers, the blossoming shrubs and the trees that grace the yards of some of our homes. Those crape myrtle bushes, by which some of us pass unthinkingly, were planted years and years ago by women in crinoline, and they reach a perfection in this city seldom witnessed. So it is with our lilacs, our mimosa trees, our hollyhocks and, above all these, our magnolias. Visitors from northern climes, unfamiliar with the broad-leaved magnolia, stop in wonder before it and if they may scent the blossoms go home never to forget the odor.

Can we grow no more magnolias, and are we planting no more crape myrtles? Or are we willing that a new generation shall grow up never to know the beauties of old Richmond with its garden adorns?

A NEW MANSION?

We certainly hope that the wild forecast, printed in an afternoon paper, that the General Assembly would consider the demolition of the Executive Mansion and the erection of a new home for our Governors on the Soldiers' Home property, will end in talk. To tear down the Executive Mansion, even to save the price of a new lot, would be the extreme height of absolute folly. That mansion is one of the most venerable structures in Richmond, with a tradition that is above price, with memories that are golden. Built just 100 years ago, it has been the high around which much of the social history of the Commonwealth has revolved. Great men have lived there, great history has been made there, great hopes have been built there. Had it no other claim to fame, it would be entitled to preservation forever because from its portico one April night Honest John Lecher braved the hisses of the crowd to express regret that the Mother of States had been forced from the Union.

Nor is the mansion unworthy of the State. Few houses in Richmond are more beautiful, more commodious, especially since the repairs made in the Swannson regime have been completed by Governor Mann. With its little garden, its flower beds and its trees, the mansion is the most beautiful object in our historic Square. Destruction would mean desecration!

And besides, if the State needs a new office building and cannot purchase the property adjoining the old Ford's Hotel site, why not build to the south of the present Mineral and Timber Museum, or add to the wings of the present building, or buy the old Davis House—better known to some of us as the White Building?

A reverent people will never tear down the venerable and handsome mansion!

HOW ABOUT THE ASSEMBLY?

Pitifully little is being said in our exchanges about the canvass for the General Assembly. There is talk enough of the fight for Attorney-General, there is space and to spare to discuss the comparative merits of Brown and Koiner. But of the men who will be chosen to make the laws there is scarcely a line.

This is a bad sign and doubly bad when we remember that the next General Assembly will be called upon to do great things without the leadership of the men who have guided the lower house. Speaker Byrd, Colonel Bowman and Captain Jennings are not to return—three of the powers of the House—others of scarcely less experience are to stay at home. At the very least, the House will include forty-five new members, most of them untried.

How is it, then, that we of Virginia have given but passing notice to the merits of the men who are offering for the House? Surely we cannot afford to be careless when we think of the issues to be settled. Tax reform, the regulation of the fee system and better election laws are all demanded. Yet we are not studying the ability of candidates to pass on these vital matters nor vigorously upholding the claims of those whom we know to be true and tried.

There are but ten days between us and the primary—one issue of the weekly press. Will not our brother editors remember this, and if they can do no more, will they explain to their readers next week that Virginia needs an able General Assembly more than she needs anything else at this time? The Assembly is the real master; it must be enlightened.

THE NEWS THAT INTERESTS.

In a public notice to its correspondents, the Fredericksburg Journal bewails the fact that these writers send in news which is not news, news that has a very narrow interest. "We shall be compelled," says the Journal, "to cut out all matter from our correspondents' letters which we consider not of interest to the public."

We appreciate the embarrassment of the Journal—it is common to all newspapers—but we are afraid the Journal has taken an enormous task on itself in threatening to eliminate from its correspondence everything that is not of interest.

For what is of interest? Newspaper men have been asking the question since the first sheet was printed, and the first correspondent enlisted; and they are probably no nearer the definite answer than in the beginning.

What is news to one man is trash to another; what fixes the attention of one, does not hold another for a second. One man will rise at daylight to find whether the Senators beat the White Sox; another wants to find how the stock market stood Senator Blank's last speech, and does not care a con-

tinental for baseball. The newspaper has to do the best it can and produce a bountiful table d'hôte meal from which the discriminating guest may eat what he pleases.

When it comes to the local paper in a rural community, the problem of interesting the readers is at once greater and less acute. The editor of the weekly cannot hope to give the news of the world, and he wonders whether or not Farmer Jones will be satisfied with the weekly gossip from the Cross Roads. For our part, we have always felt that the needs of the rural reading public had to be supplied by a reliable daily and by the county weekly. The two do not conflict, and one without the other leaves a gap. But even then, what interests the reader?

That was cheering news the State Board of Health gave the people the other day, when it announced that popular teamwork had overcome the initial handicap of a bad season, and had given us reasonable assurance of a reduction in typhoid fever this summer. We call this a tribute to the good sense of Virginia. The people have seen that this disease of filth is the outcome of careless ignorance. They have come to understand that it can only be eradicated when every family unites to enforce sanitary precautions. In this knowledge they have gone to work and have brought about in five years a State-wide reduction in typhoid fever which is probably without an equal in the history of the country.

Of course, if we are to hold what we have gained, we must not relax in the vain belief that we have done enough. We must rather continue and improve our methods of stamping out this monster of disease. The slightest let-up will mean more typhoid.

But there is a more cheerful side to the problem. If sanitary precautions have accomplished such remarkable results, why should not more effective measures put an absolute end to typhoid? If in four years we have reduced the reported number of typhoid cases from more than 12,000 to \$6,000, why be satisfied with \$6,000? Sir William Osler declares, and rightly, that the typhoid rate is the index to a community's real civilization. Shall we rest satisfied until our rate is the lowest, or shall we be content to let 800 people die of the disease every year in Virginia?

IN THE MUSEUM OF THE FUTURE.

Patriotic sentiment doubtless prompted the curator of the Carnegie Pittsburgh Museum to request the uniform and glove of the mighty Honus Wagner for permanent exhibit in his cases. Aside from steel works, millionaires and divorcees, Wagner is Pittsburgh's greatest title to fame, and his relics are to be valued accordingly.

But the idea suggests some interesting possibilities. What might the museum of the future contain were this policy pursued? Such a wonderful collection of remarkable things! Walk in, ladies and gentlemen, and observe carefully the contents of the splendid case to your left, gathered at great cost by the Laird himself. There is the plug of tobacco from which the steel worker took a chew just before he turned out the ingot for our great battleship. Notice, if you please, that Jimmy to your right. It was used by Sinking Sam the Silent when he blew the safe at the First National. The baseball bat? My dear madame, read the legend: that is the identical bat that Clarke used when he drove in the deciding run when Pittsburgh won its last pennant—let me see, that was forty-six years ago.

The idea, of course, is absurd, but the moral is not bad. The only relics which interest the public are personal relics, the only memorials they pause to study are those intimately associated with men. The old primeval man in the British Museum, with his grisly relics about him, holds the attention of more visitors than does the parchment of Magna Charta. In preserving the nobler things, we need not destroy the lesser.

THE MEANEST MOTORMAN.

We have located the summer's meanest man and we commit him to the mercies of the public. He is not the fee man, not the hurdy-gurdy artist with half a dozen tunes, not the driver of the brick wagon. He is the street car motorman. And not, if you please, one of the large and affable army of efficient men who are mindful of the public welfare. He is rather the motorman who works when the sun is hottest, time the shortest and haste the most intense. He howls along to the transfer point, kills time until the approaching car is within hailing distance, and then dashing off at full speed, leaves the hot, hurried and panting passenger to swelter and to swear until the next car comes. And if this is not the meanest man, who is?

Seriously speaking, the habit which some motormen have of utterly disregarding the approach of other cars deserves attention. The company, we are sure, does the best it can, but it cannot control the action of motormen behind time and anxious to finish their run on the stroke of the hour. We hope, however, that the inspectors of the company will bear this matter in mind and discipline a few offenders.

In the meantime, we would remind our readers that there is a city ordinance specifically prohibiting a car from leaving a transfer point when passengers from another car wish to board it. A few arrests of offending motormen, on the complaint of private citizens, will put an end to this nuisance.

With Woodrow in the White House and Joe the season's champion pitcher, almost any old Virginia boy can find a model to imitate.

The new bridge is all right in the James, but the ends cannot get ashore.

The town that passed a law making wearers of khaki-colored skirts get on the shady side of the street fell victim to repetition.

A workin' man also needs a 5-hour night. When a fellow writes "thanks" on a receipted bill it's a cinch he's skinned you.

On the spur of the moment. At last you've pulled a glorified stud! We hear your news in greatest glee—All gowns will button up in front.

Emancipated men, at last! No longer should we swear and grunt while trying to make wife's gown fast—All gowns will button up in front.

Some women may fall for the game, but we will bet that our wife won't! She'll make us button just the same. Though all gowns button up in front.

According to Uncle Abner. A good many fellers keep praisin' the good old days and hopin' they will never come back. The man who wears a belt and suspenders at the same time in hot weather is certainly a fiend for punishment. What has become of the old-fashioned feller who used to wear the stiff-bosomed shirt?

Along about this time of the year we can never believe that Peary had such a terrible time up around the North Pole. There isn't much glory in being a loyal Mexican, but then, there isn't much glory in being any kind of a Mexican at any time.

One of the finest jobs we know is chasin' around the country when it is too in the shade for the purpose of selling steel ranges. Amos Judson, who is as bald as a door knob, has had a head of hair painted on by an artist. He says it is the only imitation hair that looks natural.

James Spink went out in the cornfield yesterday with a celluloid collar on. The funeral arrangements will not be announced until some of the relatives in the East have been heard from.

Hank Tumms was readin' the Sunday paper that a scientist has discovered that electricity can be used as a substitute for food. Hank stuck a live wire in his mouth to try it out and will not be in need of any food for two or three weeks.

Ansel Higgins, who has been wearin' a full beard for forty years, had it shaved off last night on account of the extreme heat, and when he got home his wife knocked him insensible with a hairpin, thinking he was some strange burglar.

It seems a long time since we have read about anybody chokin' to death on a piece of beefsteak. The high cost of living seems to have placed the quickest of that innocent form of amusement.

Miss Lottie Bibbins has to cook, and says that she won't marry until she can marry a hotel proprietor. Hank Tumms says which he has waded through the ads in a magazine, he hasn't got no time to read the reading matter.

Amos Judson says he doesn't feel strong enough to go to a summer resort this year. He is going to stay home, where he can rest up. No man kin have a stronger friend than a cornucopia pipe, especially if it is about nine years old.

Signs of the Times.

An editor will be warden of Leavenworth prison, so better poetry than usual may be expected from the convicts who try to write their way to freedom.

Hip pockets for women is the latest. With the help of the police of England, who want to carry shooting irons, but have no place!

One of the drawbacks to being a Congressman under President Wilson is that there is no chance to get off to see a ball game.

One of the main troubles about thinking cool thoughts on a hot day is that there are no cool ones to think. More than 200 divorce cases heard in Pittsburgh in one day, and even at that it was a dull day for Pittsburgh.

Paris may be wicked, but what has it done to deserve a season of Jack Johnson?

According to report, some of them are lobbyists and some are only boys. President Wilson never uses a stronger expression than "put out." But he never suffered a tire blow-out on a country road when the mercury is at 105 in the shade, and there isn't any shade.

Yu Ting Fung, of China, is coming back to Washington. He gets around to Washington about as often as Mr. Taft did when Taft was President.

He says that Sausbury is the homeliest man in the United States Senate, which, by the way, is saying a good deal for Mr. Sausbury's homeliness.

Voice of the People

Patriots Should Support Pollard. To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir: In a paper notebook, presented to its customers by a Richmond contractor, is a statement to the effect that when a man is going around seeking office it is usually because he cannot get anything else to do. Undoubtedly this is too often true. In the good old

days the best men were chosen to fill the offices of honor and trust. One has but to examine the records of the State to see the truth of this statement. Now, the men who are best qualified by natural abilities and training to fill these offices shrink from putting themselves in the same category with the professional politician and office-seeker.

It is really a heroic thing when a man like John Garland Pollard, overcoming this natural feeling, offers himself to the service of his State. To those who know Mr. Pollard, he needs no recommendation, and it seems that little effort should be necessary to persuade those who have read his platform and speeches that so far as his principles are concerned, he is worthy of their votes. But unfortunately, not all the voters in the State can know him personally or even be familiar with his record and reputation. Would it not be well, therefore, indeed, is it not a patriotic duty—that those who do know him personally should tell those of their friends who are less fortunate that he is the kind of timber that public servants should be made of? This would take a little time or even a postage stamp, but it will be a real service to the State. Such men are not so plentiful that we can afford to make the blunder of letting him be defeated.

J. M.

Separate Officeholders by Principles.

To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch: Sir: The Times-Dispatch, of Woods Cross Roads, Virginia, recent issue, has the titles and counties. I read the article with interest. I was not surprised to find that the Times-Dispatch is making any personal attack on any officeholder. There is no good reason for making any personal attack on any officeholder. There is no good reason for making any personal attack on any officeholder. There is no good reason for making any personal attack on any officeholder.

Mr. Stubbs says he speaks for the officers in nine counties in the First Congressional District, to be honest officers and Democrats. That is just what the State needs. He is just what the State needs. He is just what the State needs. He is just what the State needs.

Mr. Stubbs makes a mistake in accusing the Times-Dispatch of being after officeholders. The Times-Dispatch is after the lawmakers for better laws. Mr. Stubbs, you speak for nine counties in your district. Tell me through the Times-Dispatch how your representatives in the nine counties voted in the last Legislature. Did they vote to pay the laborer at the Governor's mansion \$1,200? Did they vote to pay the office of the Commissioner of Labor \$3,500? Did they vote an appropriation of \$5,350 to the State Librarian? Did they vote to pay the sergeant-at-arms, doorkeepers, clerks, pages and others extra contingent expenses amounting to \$13,500.00? Did they vote to pay Attorney-General Williams \$400 mileage? Did they vote to pay some of the members of the Legislature too much mileage? Speak out, Mr. Stubbs; you have set a good example for the honest Democrats. Tell me through the Times-Dispatch how your representatives in the nine counties voted in the last Legislature. 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